

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 13555 030523Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 NRC-05
EUR-12 /128 W

-----080948 030526Z /10

P 030500Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 802

INFO USERDA WASHDC PRIORITY

USERDA GERMANTOWN MD PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 13555

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION IN JAPAN TO AGREEMENT ON REPROCESSING
AT TOKAI MURA

1. ALL JAPANESE DAILY NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE
NEWS STORIES ON TOKAI MURA AGREEMENT IN THEIR AFTERNOON
EDITIONS OF SEPT 1 OR MORNING EDITIONS NEXT DAY. MOST PAPERS
ALSO PUBLISHED SEPARATE COMMENTARIES OR EDITORIALS IN SAME
OR SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS. ALTHOUGH LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE
INFORMATION ON NATURE OF AGREEMENT WAS GIVEN OUT AT JOINT
PRESS CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF
NEGOTIATIONS ON SEPT 1, REPORTERS WERE ABLE TO GLEAN
DETAILS OF AGREEMENT THROUGH INTERVIEWS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS
AS EXPECTED. BY AUTHORITY OF AMBS. SMITH AND MANSFIELD
BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING FOR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS IN
TOKYO WAS HELD IN EMBASSY AT 4:00 PM SEPT 1, MOLLIFYING TO
SOME EXTENT THE NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE JOINT PRESS
CONFERENCE EXPRESSED BY AMERICAN REPORTERS PRESENT. ACTUAL
WORDING OF AGREEMENT HAS NOT APPEARED IN ANY JAPANESE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 13555 030523Z

NEWSPAPER AS OF SEPT 3.

2. IN A BURST OF NATIONALISTIC ENTHUSIASM, ASAHI
SHIMBUN IN ITS AFTERNOON EDITION OF SEPT 1 WAS ONLY
PAPER TO CLAIM VICTORY FOR JAPAN. ALL OTHER PAPERS
STRESSED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD MADE CONCESSIONS IN ORDER
TO PRESERVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

PAPERS WERE QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT ULTIMATE FUTURE OF REPROCESSING PLANT REMAINS IN DOUBT, SINCE CONVENTIONAL OPERATION FOR TWO YEARS WITH LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF FUEL REPROCESSED IS CONDITIONAL FIRST STEP AUTHORIZED, WITH FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND AGREEMENT REQUIRED FOR SUBSEQUENT OPERATION. MOST PAPERS NOTED THAT JAPAN HAD AGREED TO GIVE UP PLANS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF PLUTONIUM CONVERSION PLANT THIS YEAR IN RETURN FOR NOT HAVING TO MODIFY REPROCESSING PLANT TO PERMIT COPROCESSING AND MIXED URANIUM-PLUTONIUM STORAGE, ALTHOUGH MAINICHI CLAIMED THAT JAPAN HAD BEEN FORCED TO ACCEPT MIXED STORAGE AND THAT REPROCESSING PLANT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BEGIN OPERATIONS FOR A YEAR. (EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS REPORTORIAL ERROR WAS DUE TO CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA'S ATTEMPT TO SCOOP OTHER GOJ OFFICIALS BY ANNOUNCING AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED JUST PRIOR TO OFFICIAL JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH SONODA NOT HAVING ALL THE FACTS AT HAND).

3. NEWS STORIES ALSO HAVE MENTIONED IN OBJECTIVE FASHION JAPAN'S DESIRE TO HELP U.S. NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS THROUGH AGREEMENT AND TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN INFCEP, AND THAT RESULTS OF INFCEP WILL BE A DETERMINANT IN THE FUTURE OPERATION OF TOKAI. SOME PAPERS PUBLISHED INFORMATION ON ACCESSION BY JAPAN TO QTE U.S. DEMAND FOR AN INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF JAPAN'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 13555 030523Z

PLAN TO BUILD ANOTHER SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT UNQTE, ALTHOUGH NIHON KEZAI WAS AT FIRST UNDER IMPRESSION THAT AGREEMENT WAS SILENT ON THIS POINT AND THEN IN LATER EDITION ELABORATED IN DETAIL ON RESTRICTION AGAINST PROCEEDING WITH SECOND PLANT. THEY ALSO REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA HAD SENT TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS IN FORM OF AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. PLANS FOR STA MINISTER UNO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AROUND SEPT. 12, TO HOLD FURTHER TALKS WITH AMB. GERARD SMITH, ALSO HAVE APPEARED IN PRESS.

4. COMMENT: CONSIDERING TECHNICAL AND LEGAL COMPLEXITY OF AGREEMENT AND FACT THAT ACTUAL TEXT HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT JAPANESE PRESS, IN ITS HURRY TO GET MAJOR FRONT-PAGE NEWS STORY INTO PRINT, WAS NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE OR CONSISTENT. AS MORE DETAILS EMERGE WITH TIME, FURTHER ANALYSES AND COMMENTARY CAN BE EXPECTED. IT IS QUITE APPARENT THAT THE MORE THOUGHTFUL ANALYSTS IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THAT JAPAN IS NOT HOME FREE WITH AN UNRESTRICTED FUEL CYCLE PROGRAM, THAT BOTH SIDES HAD TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IF A COMPROMISE

WERE TO BE OBTAINED AND GOOD RELATIONS CEMENTED, AND THAT TWO YEARS FROM NOW THERE MAY WELL BE EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRED. STILL TO BE HEARD IS THE REACTION FROM THE JAPANESE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. HOW WELL THEY WERE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS UNCERTAIN, BUT THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET REALIZED THE FULL IMPACT OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED. THE TONE OF ALL ARTICLES PUBLISHED SO FAR, WITH THE ONE EXCEPTION NOTED, IS THAT OF RELIEF THAT A MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS HAS BEEN REMOVED, THAT TIME HAS BEEN BOUGHT TO STUDY THE PROBLEM OF REPROCESSING AND PLUTONIUM UTILIZATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, AND THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ELATION. INTERESTINGLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TOKYO 13555 030523Z

ENOUGH, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY REFERENCE TO THESIS THAT AGREEMENT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST JAPAN VIS-A-VIS GERMANY OR OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. END COMMENT. MANSFIELD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, WASTE DISPOSAL, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, TOKAI MURA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO13555
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770319-0968
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770998/aaaaderr.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9339fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1388289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION IN JAPAN TO AGREEMENT ON REPROCESSING AT TOKAI MURA
TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, SOPN, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9339fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009